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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Myanmar, Panama, Philippines and Russian Federation: revised draft resolution

Traffic in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 2/ the International Covenants on Human Rights, 3/ and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 4/

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

3/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

4/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 5/ affirmed the human rights of women and the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

Condemning the illicit and clandestine movement of persons across national and international borders, largely from developing countries and economies in transition, with the end goal of forcing women and girl children into sexually or economically oppressive and exploitative situations, for the profit of recruiters, traffickers and crime syndicates, as well as other illegal activities related to trafficking, such as domestic labour, false marriages, clandestine employment and false adoption,

Noting the increasing number of women, girls and youths from developing countries and from economies in transition who are being victimized by traffickers,

Acknowledging that the problem of trafficking also victimizes young boys,

Recalling that the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1994/45 of 4 March 1994, 6/ calls for the elimination of trafficking in women for purposes of prostitution,

Aware of the decision of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in its resolution 3/2, 7/ to consider the international traffic in minors at its fourth session in the context of its discussion on the question of organized transnational crime,

Convinced of the need to eliminate all forms of sexual violence, sexual exploitation and sexual trafficking, which are violations of the human rights of women and girl children,

Realizing the urgent need for the adoption of effective measures nationally, regionally and internationally to protect women and girl children from this nefarious traffic,

1. Expresses grave concern over the worsening problem of trafficking, particularly the increasing syndication of the sex trade and the internationalization of the traffic in women and girl children;

2. Welcomes the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 8/ held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994,

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5/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

6/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4 (E/1994/24), chap. II, sect. E.

7/ Ibid., Supplement No. 11 (E/1994/31), chap. I, sect. C.

8/ A/CONF.171/13 and Add.1.

which called upon all Governments to prevent all international trafficking in migrants, especially for the purpose of prostitution, and for the adoption by Governments of both receiving countries and countries of origin, of effective sanctions against those who organize undocumented migration, exploit undocumented migrants or engage in trafficking in undocumented migrants, especially those who engage in any form of international traffic of women and girl children;

3. Encourages Governments, relevant bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to gather and share information relative to all aspects of trafficking in women and girl children to facilitate the development of anti-trafficking measures;

4. Urges Governments to take appropriate measures to address the problem of trafficking in women and girl children and to ensure that the victims are provided with the necessary assistance, support, legal advice, protection, treatment and rehabilitation, and urges Governments to cooperate in this matter;

5. Calls upon all Governments to take appropriate measures to prevent economic activities, such as the development of tourism and the export of labour, from being exploited and misused by traffickers;

6. Encourages Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 9/ the Slavery Convention 10/ and all other relevant international instruments;

7. Invites Governments concerned, relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to adopt appropriate measures to create a better public awareness of the problem;

8. Draws the attention of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women and the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to the problem of trafficking of women and girl children;

9. Invites the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to consider including in their respective programmes of action the subject of the traffic in women and girl children;

10. Recommends that possibilities be examined to evaluate and, if need be, strengthen the existing international legal instruments concerning the elimination of all forms of traffic in women and girl children;

9/ Resolution 3-17 (IV), annex.

10/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 212, p. 17.

11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a preliminary report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Advancement of women".